

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending.


The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 10, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-36.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (US 6,164,157). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Chen discloses a bicycle crankset wherein a fastening nut (50) is mounted to a crank arm (90). A rubber washer (60) is disposed on a laterally inner peripheral surface of fastening nut (50), a retaining washer (70) is disposed on a laterally outer peripheral surface of fastening nut (50), and a tightening nut (80) screws onto the outer peripheral surface of crank arm (90) to retain the assembly to a sleeve (20). As noted at column 2, line 14, element (70) is a retaining washer, not a seal. Accordingly, Chen neither discloses nor suggests both an inner seal and an outer seal as recited in the rejected claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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